

Ezekiel

Chapters 11 – 12

Ezekiel Chapter 11

11 **Then the Spirit lifted me up and brought me** to the East Gate of the Lord's house, which faces eastward; and there at the door of the gate were twenty-five men, among whom I saw Jaazaniah the son of Azzur, and Pelatiah the son of Benaiah, princes of the people. 2 And He said to me: "Son of man, these are the men who devise iniquity and give wicked counsel in this city, 3 who say, 'The time is not near to build houses; this city is the caldron, and we are the meat.' 4 Therefore prophesy against them, prophesy, O son of man!"

5 Then the Spirit of the Lord fell upon me, and said to me, "Speak! 'Thus says the Lord: "Thus you have said, O house of Israel; for I know the things that come into your mind. 6 You have multiplied your slain in this city, and you have filled its streets with the slain." 7 Therefore thus says the Lord God: "Your slain whom you have laid in its midst, they are the meat, and this city is the caldron; but I shall bring you out of the midst of it. 8 You have feared the sword; and I will bring a sword upon you," says the Lord God. 9 "And I will bring you out of its midst, and deliver you into the hands of strangers, and execute judgments on you. 10 You shall fall by the sword. I will judge you at the border of Israel. **Then you shall know that I am the Lord.** 11 This city shall not be your caldron, nor shall you be the meat in its midst. I will judge you at the border of Israel. 12 **And you shall know that I am the Lord;** for you have not walked in My statutes nor executed My judgments, but have done according to the customs of the Gentiles which are all around you." ' "

"The eastern gate was considered the main gate in Solomon's temple, facing the Mount of Olives, and was the main entrance into the doors of the temple, which also faced east, towards the rising of the morning sun. The men listed in verse one were planning evil and giving wrong advice. Their names all have meanings: Jaazaniah = Yahweh listens; son of Azur = the helper; Pelatiah = Yahweh rescues; son of Beniah = Yahweh builds. They instruct people to build houses, which creates a false sense of security. Being a caldron with the flesh inside of it implies that a fire will be burning, but that flesh will not be burned even in a caldron; they predict that they can somehow come out unharmed." Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1247

13 Now it happened, while I was prophesying, that Pelatiah the son of Benaiah died. Then I fell on my face and cried with a loud voice, and said, “Ah, Lord God! Will You make a complete end of the remnant of Israel?”

14 Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 15 “Son of man, your brethren, your relatives, your countrymen, and all the house of Israel in its entirety, are those about whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, ‘Get far away from the Lord; this land has been given to us as a possession.’ 16 Therefore say, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Although I have cast them far off among the Gentiles, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet ***I shall be a little sanctuary for them in the countries where they have gone.***” ’ 17 Therefore say, ‘Thus says the Lord God: ***“I will gather you from the peoples, assemble you from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.”***’ 18 And they will go there, and they will take away all its detestable things and all its abominations from there. ***19 Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, 20 that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.*** 21 But as for those whose hearts follow the desire for their detestable things and their abominations, I will recompense their deeds on their own heads,” says the Lord God.

“Pelatiah dropped dead when Ezekiel announced the prophecy. It appears to be a supernatural death in the same fashion as the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira, who lied to the Holy Spirit in Acts 5. Ezekiel asks whether all of Israel will be destroyed, leaving no one. God promises to be a ‘little sanctuary’, meaning that he will allow a small measure of His presence with those in exile. When the exiles returned, they would purge the abominations from the land (which Nehemiah and Ezra did) and their hearts would melt from stone back to flesh, which means they would no longer be hard hearted, but have sensitive hearts with feelings towards God.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1248

22 So the cherubim lifted up their wings, with the wheels beside them, and the glory of the God of Israel was high above them. 23 And the glory of the Lord went up from the midst of the city and stood on the mountain, which is on the east side of the city.

24 Then the Spirit took me up and brought me in a vision by the Spirit of God into Chaldea, to those in captivity. And the vision that I had seen went up from me. 25 So I spoke to those in captivity of all the things the Lord had shown me.

“The glory of the Lord lifted from Jerusalem and moved toward the east mountain, which would be the Mount of Olives. This would be the same mountain from which a cloud would later receive Christ back to heaven (See

Acts 1:9-12) and where Christ will one day return with the armies of heaven (See Zech. 14:4). The glory of the Lord could not remain at the temple with such idol worship and iniquity. This vision concluded, and the Spirit of the Lord carried Ezekiel back to Chaldea, where he revealed his vision to the Jewish exiles.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1248

Ezekiel Chapter 12

1 Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying: 2 “Son of man, you dwell in the midst of a rebellious house, which has eyes to see but does not see, and ears to hear but does not hear; for they are a rebellious house.

“Their ‘spiritual eyes’ of understanding were so blinded and spiritual ears were so dull that they could not discern God’s warnings.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1248.

3 “Therefore, son of man, prepare your belongings for captivity, and go into captivity by day in their sight. You shall go from your place into captivity to another place in their sight. It may be that they will consider, though they are a rebellious house. 4 By day you shall bring out your belongings in their sight, as though going into captivity; and at evening you shall go in their sight, like those who go into captivity. 5 Dig through the wall in their sight, and carry your belongings out through it. 6 In their sight you shall bear them on your shoulders and carry them out at twilight; you shall cover your face, so that you cannot see the ground, for I have made you a sign to the house of Israel.”

7 So I did as I was commanded. I brought out my belongings by day, as though going into captivity, and at evening I dug through the wall with my hand. I brought them out at twilight, and I bore them on my shoulder in their sight.

8 And in the morning the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 9 “Son of man, has not the house of Israel, the rebellious house, said to you, ‘What are you doing?’ 10 Say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “This burden concerns the prince in Jerusalem and all the house of Israel who are among them.” ’ 11 Say, ‘I am a sign to you. As I have done, so shall it be done to them; they shall be carried away into captivity.’ 12 And the prince who is among them shall bear his belongings on his shoulder at twilight and go out. They shall dig through the wall to carry them out through it. He shall cover his face, so that he cannot see the ground with his eyes. 13 I will also spread My net over him, and he shall be caught in My snare. I will bring him to Babylon, to the land of the Chaldeans; yet he shall not see it, though he shall die there. 14 I will scatter to every wind all who are around him to help him, and all his troops; and I will draw out the sword after them.

15 ***“Then they shall know that I am the Lord,*** when I scatter them among the nations and disperse them throughout the countries. 16 But I will spare a few of their men from the sword, from famine, and from pestilence, that they may declare all their abominations among the Gentiles wherever they go. ***Then they shall know that I am the Lord.”***

“Here Ezekiel demonstrates another illustrated message by packing up his goods and moving from place to place during the day for all to see – a sign that the people would be removed from their comforts to captivity and would bear a heavy weight for their sins. Ezekiel carried his belongings as a burden on his shoulders and covers his eyes, which was a sign of mourning in public. When the people ask what he is doing, Ezekiel predicts their captivity by the Babylonians, noting that they would dig through the rubble for goods to carry back to Chaldea. Ezekiel then mentions the remnant (from Chapter 9) who would be in the city to proclaim the reason for destruction of the abominations of the people.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1248

17 Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 18 “Son of man, eat your bread with quaking, and drink your water with trembling and anxiety. 19 And say to the people of the land, ‘Thus says the Lord God to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the land of Israel: “They shall eat their bread with anxiety, and drink their water with dread, so that her land may be emptied of all who are in it, because of the violence of all those who dwell in it. 20 Then the cities that are inhabited shall be laid waste, and the land shall become desolate; and you shall know that I am the Lord.” ’ ”

21 And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 22 “Son of man, what is this proverb that you people have about the land of Israel, which says, ‘The days are prolonged, and every vision fails?’ 23 Tell them therefore, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “I will lay this proverb to rest, and they shall no more use it as a proverb in Israel.” ’ But say to them, ‘“The days are at hand, and the fulfillment of every vision. 24 For no more shall there be any false vision or flattering divination within the house of Israel. ***25 For I am the Lord. I speak, and the word which I speak will come to pass; it will no more be postponed; for in your days, O rebellious house, I will say the word and perform it,” says the Lord God.’ ”***

26 Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 27 “Son of man, look, the house of Israel is saying, ‘The vision that he sees is for many days from now, and he prophesies of times far off.’ 28 Therefore say to them, ***“Thus says the Lord God: “None of My words will be postponed any more, but the word which I speak will be done,” says the Lord God.’ ”***

“The leaders in Jerusalem believed these warnings were for a future time, a long way away, since years of warnings had produced no signs of impending judgment. No doubt, this was the skeptical attitude of the people of Noah’s day, when he spent 100 years preparing the ark (Genesis 5:32, 7:6). He warned the

people around him, but no floodwaters appeared during a hundred years of Noah's preaching righteousness and warning against unrighteousness (II Peter 2:5) . Jesus compared the days of Noah to the days preceding His return (Matthew 24:37). He warned that some would say the Lord has delayed His coming, and would begin to mistreat people, become drunk, and live carelessly. (Luke 12:45).

Just as it happened with the warnings of judgement to ancient Israel in the time of Jeremiah or Ezekiel, people tend to become skeptical and mocking when warnings are issued and then nothing visibly occurs. However, in the days of Noah and Lot, the 'wicked people' did not know God's wrath, 'until the day' it occurred. (Luke 17:27-29).

Some individuals believe the return of Christ could be hundreds or thousands of years away, and others mock the modern-day warning, saying that prophetic preaching is 'doom and gloom'. Let the mockers of the prophecies beware and not follow the examples of the critics in Ezekiel's time, who deceived themselves into believing that nothing bad would happen in their day. Eventually, all prophetic words from the Lord in the Scripture will come to pass and will not be delayed or restrained." Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1249.